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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR

Strengthening of the Educational System
(ELS/78/007)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	June 1979
Starting date of project activities:	March 1979 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	May 1983
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Education
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$616 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. With more than 820,000 primary education students (grades 1-9), El Salvador has approximately 18,000 public schools teachers, 85 percent of whom were trained prior to 1968 and only 15 per cent of whom have graduated from the Normal School. Despite the fact that more than 10,000 of these teachers have received short specialization courses during the last ten years, the necessity of continuing to upgrade and update the basic education of teachers is an urgent priority. An estimated million persons over the age of ten years in El Salvador are illiterate.

2. Realizing the magnitude of the problems the Ministry of Education is facing, the Government has requested UNDP assistance in a number of fields related to the Government's Five-Year Plan, 1978-1982, specifically Strategic Programmes Nos. 25, 26 and 27, in the modernization and expansion of educational services in rural areas, massive adult education, and the conservation and development of the country's cultural, natural and artistic patrimony respectively.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost-sharing).

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3. The first component of the project is in support of the fourth loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) to the educational sector which is for the purpose of, among other things , expanding basic education and training opportunities for children and adults in rural areas and improving the quality, efficiency, administration and supervision of the school system; expanding in-service training programmes for teachers and school directors; and increasing the production of textbooks and teaching materials for basic education.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) set up a permanent system of teachers' training, based on past experience and including the use of non-conventional elements such as modules and "distance education" or educational television; (b) develop strategies and motivation methods for the education of some 195,000 adults; including the use of appropriate words and terms in educational materials for beginners, principally in the rural areas; (c) promote actions directed at the development of a general cultural policy; and (d) evolve a working system of evaluation for the three Strategic Programmes in question.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP is to provide over four years 125 man-months of the services of experts and consultants in educational extension, modular designs, educational technology, literacy, "distance education" and evaluation; training and equipment.

6. The Government will provide 2,780 man-months of the services of national counterpart personnel in research, evaluation, education extension, literacy, modulation and planning, plus administrative and logistic support.

IV. Financial data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $	Present approval $	Total approved $
Personnel	60 000	461 000	521 000
Subcontracts		30 000	30 000
Training		92 000	92 000
Equipment		25 000	25 000
Miscellaneous		8 000	8 000
	60 000	616 000	676 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in U.S. dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $2,400,000 in kind.

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